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GENERAL

**Across Regions**

**UNHCR fears sea tragedies as sailing season starts in Bay of Bengal**

The UN refugee agency has received worrying reports that more people are setting out to sea on smugglers' boats from the Bay of Bengal in search of a better life free from persecution. "This could signal the start of the annual sailing season – a deadly time when thousands of desperate people from Myanmar's Rakhine state risk their lives on rickety boats to find safety and stability elsewhere," a UNHCR spokesman said Friday. According to UNHCR's sources, more than 1,500 people boarded boats in northern Rakhine state and headed into the Bay of Bengal over the course of four days last week.

**UNHCR -** [**http://www.unhcr.org/5273a9146.html**](http://www.unhcr.org/5273a9146.html)

**DR Congo/Uganda**

**Congo fighting intensifies, shells land in Uganda**

Uganda's military and humanitarian workers say fighting between Congolese forces and M23 rebels intensified Monday morning, forcing thousands more Congolese to seek refuge in Uganda. Lt. Col. Paddy Ankunda, Uganda's top military spokesman, said Monday that Uganda has now deployed troops and tanks at the border after projectiles fired from Congo landed in the country. Ankunda said Uganda had protested to Congo's government after five people were wounded in at least two incidents. Lucy Beck, a spokeswoman for the UNHCR in Uganda, said the Bunagana border area has become "too dangerous" for refugees and humanitarian workers. Fighting persists despite a call on Sunday by M23's president for a cease-fire. Peace talks in Uganda are believed to be deadlocked over amnesty for rebel commanders.

**AP -** [**http://www.usnews.com/news/world/articles/2013/11/04/congo-fighting-intensifies-shells-land-in-uganda**](http://www.usnews.com/news/world/articles/2013/11/04/congo-fighting-intensifies-shells-land-in-uganda)

**Uganda calls for Congo ceasefire as peace talks progress**

Uganda called on the Congolese army and M23 rebels to cease fire on Friday as peace talks progressed in Kampala to end a 20-month conflict. But, while the rebels said they were ready for a peace deal, government forces vowed to pursue their military advantage and crush the rebellion in Democratic Republic of Congo's mineral-rich east. Peace talks resumed in the Ugandan capital Kampala on Wednesday, 10 days after they collapsed over rebel demands for amnesty, triggering renewed hostilities. A week-long army offensive has driven the rebels back to mountain bases and many have fled to neighboring Uganda or defected.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/11/01/us-congo-democratic-rebels-idUSBRE9A00TM20131101**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/11/01/us-congo-democratic-rebels-idUSBRE9A00TM20131101)

**UNHCR monitors returns to North Kivu from Uganda, prepares to help returnees**

UNHCR continues to respond to the latest inflows of Congolese refugees to southern Uganda as it prepares to assist people to return home in areas liberated from rebel control across the border in DRC North Kivu province. More than 10,000 people fled to Uganda's Kisoro district after the latest wave of fighting between the DRC armed forces and the M23 rebel movement began on October 25, more than 18 months after the two sides first started fighting. The government has enjoyed spectacular success, ousting the M23 from strongholds in North Kivu, including the Bunagana crossing with Uganda, across which the refugees flowed. UNHCR has transported more than 3,000 to the Nyakabande Transit Centre, about 20 km from the border, where they receive shelter, food and other aid. Several thousand more remained in the border area and UNHCR has seen many return to North Kivu since the army captured the town on Wednesday afternoon. On Friday, the border was much calmer although there were some arrivals from Lunyonyi, where sporadic fighting continues.

**UNHCR -** [**http://www.unhcr.org/5273d8ef6.html**](http://www.unhcr.org/5273d8ef6.html)

**South Sudan/Sudan**

**Sudan to repatriate 43,500 southerners from Khartoum, Kosti**

The Sudanese Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC) is making preparations to repatriate 40,000 South Sudanese citizens from Khartoum as well as 3,500 from the White Nile state’s city of Kosti on Sunday. The farewell ceremony at the end of the repatriation operations would be attended by Sudan’s interior minister Ibrahim Mahmoud Hamid, the governor of the White Nile state Youssef al-Shanbali, South Sudan’s ambassador to Khartoum Mayan Dut Waal and South Sudan’s commissioner of Relief and Reconstruction Peter Lam Buth.

**Sudan Tribune -** [**http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article48668**](http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article48668)

**Syria/Turkey**

**Turkish police disperse demo at Syrian border**

Police in southeastern Turkey fired tear gas at a crowd of demonstrators who were protesting the construction of a wall between Turkey and Syria. The mayor of the border town of Nusaybin started a hunger strike Thursday in an effort to stop the development. Her actions prompted support from hundreds of locals who gathered at the site to protest the wall between Nusaybin and Qamishli in northern Syria. Riot police intervened with tear gas to disperse the crowd. They also sprayed pressurized water into Syria to disperse children who threw objects across the border. Turkey's interior minister has said the structure is intended to protect citizens because of mines in the area.

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/turkish-police-disperse-demo-syrian-border-20753370**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/turkish-police-disperse-demo-syrian-border-20753370)

CEE/CIS

**Serbia/Kosovo**

**Violence and low turnout mar Kosovo election**

Outbreaks of violence and a low turnout marred key local elections in Kosovo on Sunday, the first in which ethnic Serbs have been encouraged to vote since the territory proclaimed independence in 2008. One woman was seriously injured when masked extremists stormed a polling station, attacking voters and election commissioners and destroying ballot boxes in the ethnically divided town of Kosovska Mitrovica, Belgrade-backed Serb mayoral candidate Krstimir Pantic told reporters. Polling stations in the Serb-run northern part of the town closed an hour before the official close of voting at 1800 GMT as a result of the violence. There were also outbreaks of violence at several other polling stations, another candidate Oliver Ivanovic said.

**AFP -** [**http://ph.news.yahoo.com/boycott-fears-intimidation-mar-kosovo-vote-185428809.html**](http://ph.news.yahoo.com/boycott-fears-intimidation-mar-kosovo-vote-185428809.html)

EAPR

**Cambodia**

**Bird flu kills 12th person in Cambodia this year**

A 2-year-old girl has become the 12th person to die of bird flu in Cambodia this year.

Cambodia's Health Ministry and the World Health Organization said in a joint statement Monday that the girl died from the H5N1 bird flu virus on Oct. 26 after suffering from fever, difficulty in breathing and lethargy. The statement said an investigation at the girl's village in western Pursat province revealed that two months before her illness, poultry had died suddenly at her grandparents' house, where she often stayed. The H5N1 virus normally spreads between poultry but can sometimes spread from poultry to humans. The number of deaths from bird flu in Cambodia this year is the highest since the disease surfaced in 2003.

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/Health/wireStory/bird-flu-kills-12th-person-cambodia-year-20773923**](http://abcnews.go.com/Health/wireStory/bird-flu-kills-12th-person-cambodia-year-20773923)

**China**

**Authorities say will stamp out Dalai Lama's voice in Tibet**

China aims to stamp out the voice of exiled Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama in his restive and remote homeland by ensuring that his "propaganda" is not received by anyone on the internet, television or other means, a top official said. China has tried, with varying degrees of success, to prevent Tibetans listening to or watching programmes broadcast from outside the country, or accessing any information about the Dalai Lama and the exiled government on the internet. But many Tibetans are still able to access such news, either via illegal satellite televisions or by skirting Chinese internet restrictions. The Dalai Lama's picture and his teachings are also smuggled into Tibet, at great personal risk.

**Reuters -** [**http://uk.reuters.com/article/2013/11/02/uk-china-tibet-idUKBRE9A101T20131102**](http://uk.reuters.com/article/2013/11/02/uk-china-tibet-idUKBRE9A101T20131102)

**Indonesia**

**More villagers evacuated after volcano eruption in Indonesia**

The number of evacuee has increased to 1,681 as the local authority declared a seven-day emergency period after Mount Sinabung in Karo district of North Sumatra erupted on Sunday, official said here on Monday. Foods, maskers, sanitation kits and other relief aids have been delivered to the scenes, Sutopo Purwo Nugroho, spokesman of national disaster management and mitigation agency said. Soldiers, police and officials from the agency were involved in the evacuation and emergency relief works, Sutopo said. The 2,475 meter high Mount Sinabung had a major explosion earlier Sunday, hurdling a cloud of black ash up to 7, 000 meters to the sky. It erupted again in the afternoon. The authorities recommended the people living in four villages located within 3 km from the crater to evacuate.

**Xinhua -** [**http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2013-11/04/c\_132858247.htm**](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2013-11/04/c_132858247.htm)

**Malaysia**

**Malaysia warns on dengue as deaths spike**

A Malaysian health official on Monday warned citizens to take steps to eliminate mosquito breeding spots as dengue fever cases have spiked. The number of reported cases of the infection, which causes severe fever, headaches and joint pain and can trigger fatal haemorrhaging and death, has soared compared to last year, and deaths have doubled. Between January and late October, 28,200 cases and 60 deaths were recorded, according to government statistics. There were 17,800 cases and 29 deaths during the same period last year. Officials have said a key factor has been frequent heavy downpours in recent weeks.

**AFP -** [**http://www.nst.com.my/latest/malaysia-warns-on-dengue-as-deaths-spike-1.391868**](http://www.nst.com.my/latest/malaysia-warns-on-dengue-as-deaths-spike-1.391868)

**Myanmar**

**Boat carrying 70 Muslim Rohingya sinks off coast**

A boat carrying at least 70 Muslim Rohingya capsized and sank Sunday off the western coast of Myanmar, an aid worker said. Only eight survivors have been found. The boat was in the Bay of Bengal and headed for Bangladesh when it went down early Sunday, said Abdul Melik, who works for a humanitarian organization in the region. The incident comes after the UN warned that an annual and often deadly exodus of desperate people from Myanmar's Rakhine state appears to have begun. The exodus usually kicks off in November, when seas begin to calm following the annual monsoon. As many as 1,500 people have fled in the last week, Dan McNorton, a spokesman for the UN High Commission for Refugees, said at a press briefing Saturday in Geneva.

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/boat-carrying-70-muslim-rohingya-sinks-off-myanmar-20767803**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/boat-carrying-70-muslim-rohingya-sinks-off-myanmar-20767803)

**Myanmar ethnic rebel groups give assurance on peace by 2015**

Myanmar ethnic rebel groups yesterday predicted the country could look forward to peace by 2015 if the government agrees to their nationwide ceasefire terms. “If negotiations on the ceasefire draft are approved, gunshot will no longer be heard after 2015,” said Khun Oakka, spokesperson of a conference of 18 ethnic minority rebels groups that have met in Laiza, 890 km north Yangon, since Wednesday. Yesterday the groups finalised a nine-point draft nationwide ceasefire plan which they will present to government leaders tomorrow and Tuesday in Myintkyina, the capital of Kachin state. “This is an historic moment and the first time we can hope to end the civil war,” Khun Oakka said, while acknowledging that there is still a lot to negotiate to reach an agreement with the government.

**DPA -** [**http://www.gulf-times.com/asean-philippines/188/details/370489/myanmar-ethnic-rebel-groups-give-assurance-on-peace-by-2015**](http://www.gulf-times.com/asean-philippines/188/details/370489/myanmar-ethnic-rebel-groups-give-assurance-on-peace-by-2015)

**Burmese army abuses in Kachin ‘ongoing’ despite ceasefire**

The Burmese army continues to step up abuses in northern Kachin state, including raping, killing and torturing villagers, despite signing a tentative ceasefire with ethnic rebels, activists say. According to new research by the Kachin Women’s Association of Thailand (KWAT), government troops raided Nhka Ga village, near Putao, in northern Kachin, on 16 September, killing three men, torturing 10 others and raping a young mother. The attack was “directly linked” to securing control of a region that is rich in natural resources including timber and minerals, says the group. Nhka Ga village lies along a new China-built road leading to an area slated for development by billionaire crony Tay Za. The allegations follow weeks of fighting in southern Kachin and northern Shan state. Violence flared in Mansi township in Bhamo less than a week after rebel and government negotiators reached a fresh peace deal in Myitkyina, where they agreed to reduce fighting.

**Democratic Voice of Burma -** [**http://reliefweb.int/report/myanmar/burmese-army-abuses-kachin-%E2%80%98ongoing%E2%80%99-despite-ceasefire**](http://reliefweb.int/report/myanmar/burmese-army-abuses-kachin-%E2%80%98ongoing%E2%80%99-despite-ceasefire)

**PNG**

**Nine killed in PNG landslide: reports**

Nine people were feared dead Monday after a landslide tore through a village in Papua New Guinea's rugged Highlands region burying homes, reports said. Villagers were sleeping when the massive slip of earth, trees and debris crashed down a mountain side on Saturday night onto Kenagi village on the border of Eastern Highlands province, the Post Courier newspaper said. Local councillor David Nondo said one body, of a 10-year-old boy, had been recovered but it would take days to dig up the dead from the landslide which cut the crucial Highlands Highway. "The area is now a burial ground and we do not want people passing through at will," Nondo told the paper. "This means nothing -- trucks, buses and passengers -- is allowed to go into or drive over the area on the highway."

**AFP -** [**http://www.thenews.com.pk/article-125073-Nine-killed-in-PNG-landslide:-reports**](http://www.thenews.com.pk/article-125073-Nine-killed-in-PNG-landslide:-reports)

**Thailand**

**1,000s protest in Thai capital over amnesty bill**

Thousands of people marched in Thailand's capital and blocked a major road on Monday to protest an amnesty bill they said is designed to bring former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra back from overseas exile. More than 1,000 people blew whistles and temporarily halted traffic in Bangkok's financial district of Silom at lunchtime to protest the legislation, which was approved by the lower house of Parliament on Friday. Several thousand others joined a peaceful march by the opposition Democrat Party in another part of the city. The party had staged a rally that drew thousands of supporters since Thursday. The bill would grant amnesties to those involved in the sometimes-violent political conflict that has sharply divided the country for almost a decade.

**AP -** [**http://www.miamiherald.com/2013/11/04/3730586/1000s-protest-in-thai-capital.html**](http://www.miamiherald.com/2013/11/04/3730586/1000s-protest-in-thai-capital.html)

ESAR

**Mozambique**

**Opposition say offices attacked by military**

Mozambique's official opposition party Renamo on Friday accused government forces of attacking its headquarters in the central city of Beira, after a spate of clashes between the former rebel movement and the military. "Our political delegation in Beira was attacked this morning by the armed forces and special police," Renamo spokesman Fernando Mazanga told AFP, referring to the country's second city, a major port. "They are occupying our offices there and the house our president Afonso Dhlakama has in the city." Around 150 armed men struck in the morning, and injured a security guard, the group claimed.

**AFP -** [**http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5gUsw9\_E7zbYDdxP7Xz8LqhGSBfEQ?docId=a677e950-17e8-42c6-8254-af7ea48ac900&hl=en**](http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5gUsw9_E7zbYDdxP7Xz8LqhGSBfEQ?docId=a677e950-17e8-42c6-8254-af7ea48ac900&hl=en)

**Renamo attacks on bridge over Pungue**

Gunmen of Mozambique's former rebel movement, Renamo, attacked a truck on Sunday morning at the bridge over the Pungue river, 15 km outside Gorngosa town in the central province of Sofala. According to a report by the independent television station, STV, the truck driver was injured because he lost control of the vehicle, which overturned. Circulation of traffic along this road has been interrupted following the attack. Further south in Sofala, there were Renamo attacks on convoys on the main south road, on the stretch between the Save river and the small town of Muxungue on both Thursday and Friday. Despite the military escort accompanying the convoys vehicles were hit on both occasions, and three people were killed.

**AllAfrica -** [**http://allafrica.com/stories/201311030298.html**](http://allafrica.com/stories/201311030298.html)

**Driver killed, 10 abducted in truck attack**

Four militants of the Mozambican opposition party Renamo killed a driver and abducted 10 others after they attacked a truck in the northern province of Nampula this week, state media reported Thursday. The truck, carrying 20 people, was ambushed some 45 km from the main city in Nampula Tuesday night. At least 10 people remain unaccounted for, Radio Mozambique said, adding that they might have been abducted at gun point as hostages. The gunmen set fire on the truck before fleeing and police who arrived at the scene on Wednesday found only the driver's body, the report said. The attackers are thought to be members of Renamo's "presidential guard", whose job is to protect the party leader Afonso Dhlakama in Nampula.

**Xinhua -** [**http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/africa/2013-11/01/c\_132849028.htm**](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/africa/2013-11/01/c_132849028.htm)

**Somalia**

**Kenyan military attacks Al-Shabaab training camp in Somalia**

The Kenya Defence Forces (KDF) has said it on Thursday evening attacked and destroyed an Al-Shabaab training base in Somalia. ‘‘KDF forces within AMISON conducted a major aerial offensive on Al-Shaab locations in the Dinsoor region. The air strike completely destroyed an Al-Shabaab training camp at Hurguun’’ said Colonel Cyrus Oguna, the KDF Operations Information Officer in a statement on Thursday. AMISOM is the African Union mission in Somalia. Uganda, Kenya and Burundi have troops in the country under the mission. ‘‘The training camp has been used by the Al-Shabaab to train operatives some of whom eventually infiltrated into the country. The Westgate attackers received their training from this camp,’’ said Colonel Cyprus Oguna.

**Sudan Tribune -** [**http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article48652**](http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article48652)

**South Africa**

**Six people killed by mob justice outside Johannesburg**

Six people were killed in an apparent incident of mob justice in a town outside Johannesburg at the weekend, police said Monday. The six were killed on Sunday after hundreds of residents held meetings about gangs in their community. At least one person was set alight and burned to death, while two others were stoned. Neville Malila, a police spokesman, said forces were patrolling the town of Khutsong, west of Johannesburg, but so far no arrests were made. "Police vehicles who responded to the calls were stoned and damaged," Malila was quoted as saying by local news agency SAPA. The situation was said to be calm on Monday.

**VoA/DPA -** [**http://voiceofrussia.com/news/2013\_11\_04/Six-people-killed-by-mob-justice-outside-Johannesburg-4057/**](http://voiceofrussia.com/news/2013_11_04/Six-people-killed-by-mob-justice-outside-Johannesburg-4057/)

LAC

**Across LAC**

**Indigenous women in Latin America remain invisible to society, warns UN**

Indigenous women in Latin America continue to face great gaps in access to higher education, health services and employment, although there have been significant educational advances, according to a report by the UN's Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean. The findings were published this week at a conference in Lima, Peru, which brought together more than 180 indigenous women from Africa, Asia, the Americas, Australasia, the Pacific and Russia in an array of colourful traditional costumes. A lack of economic and academic opportunities at home, coupled with growing damage to the environment from mining and other extractive industries, have led women to leave their ancestral territories for urban centres, where they face new struggles, the report said.

**Guardian -** [**http://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2013/nov/01/indigenous-women-latin-america-un**](http://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2013/nov/01/indigenous-women-latin-america-un)

**Bolivia**

**8 killed, 10 injured in Bolivia plane crash**

A Bolivian plane carrying 18 people crashed on Sunday while trying to land during bad weather in the north of the Andean country, killing eight passengers and injuring the others on board, the director of a local hospital told Reuters. Heavy rain was falling as the small turboprop plane operated by local airline Aerocon tried to land in Riberalta, in Beni department near the Brazilian border, according to witnesses. The plane took off from Trinidad, Beni's capital, Aerocon said earlier on Sunday, without providing a death toll. Eighteen people were on board, according to the director of the Riberalta hospital, Jose Luis Pereira.

**Reuters -** [**http://worldnews.nbcnews.com/\_news/2013/11/03/21299131-8-killed-10-injured-in-bolivia-plane-crash**](http://worldnews.nbcnews.com/_news/2013/11/03/21299131-8-killed-10-injured-in-bolivia-plane-crash)

**Mexico**

**Tropical Storm Sonia hits Mexico as it slows into a depression**

The US. National Hurricane Center says Tropical Storm Sonia has been downgraded to a tropical depression as it hit land in Mexico. The center in Miami said the center of Sonia reached the coast of Sinaloa near the city of El Dorado early on Monday. It’s maximum sustained winds have decreased to near 55 kph, and it will likely dissipate later today over mountainous terrain of Mexico. The center said that even though Sonia was weakening, heavy rains are still possible in Sinaloa, western Durango, and southern Chihuahua. The government of Sinaloa state said school classes were canceled for Monday in five municipalities that could be affected by the storm.

**AP -** [**http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/the\_americas/mexican-officials-prepare-for-rain-threat-as-tropical-storm-sonia-heads-for-pacific-coast/2013/11/03/98c4ff1e-44e7-11e3-95a9-3f15b5618ba8\_story.html**](http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/the_americas/mexican-officials-prepare-for-rain-threat-as-tropical-storm-sonia-heads-for-pacific-coast/2013/11/03/98c4ff1e-44e7-11e3-95a9-3f15b5618ba8_story.html)

**Gunfights kill 13 in Mexican city on US border**

Thirteen people were killed in shootouts on Sunday around the northeastern Mexican city of Matamoros in one of the worst recent outbreaks of violence in an area ravaged by drug gangs. Three gunfights took place around the city opposite Brownsville, Texas, two of which were exchanges between gunmen and Mexico's armed forces, according to a statement from the state government of Tamaulipas. Eight men died in the fighting with Mexican Marines after four men and one woman were killed in an earlier clash between unidentified armed groups, the state government said. None of the dead have yet been identified.

**Reuters -** [**http://uk.reuters.com/article/2013/11/04/uk-mexico-drugs-idUKBRE9A303W20131104**](http://uk.reuters.com/article/2013/11/04/uk-mexico-drugs-idUKBRE9A303W20131104)

**Nicaragua**

**Dengue death toll rises to 16**

A dengue epidemic sweeping Nicaragua has claimed the life of a 13-year-old boy, raising the disease's death toll there to 16 people, according to officials. The death is the second in less than 24 hours due to dengue, health authorities reported. The disease has infected some 5,795 people in Nicaragua this year. The boy was from Matagalpa, located 127 km north of Managua, said presidential spokeswoman and first lady Rosario Murillo. A total of 1,128 people have been hospitalized suspected of having dengue, with 43 of the instances confirmed by laboratories and 36 serious cases, according to official reports. Murillo also announced the arrival of specialists from Cuba to assess whether a product, which she did not identify but that has been used in other countries, could be used in Nicaragua.

**AFP -** [**http://www.france24.com/en/20131102-nicaraguas-dengue-death-toll-rises-16**](http://www.france24.com/en/20131102-nicaraguas-dengue-death-toll-rises-16)

MENA

**Across MENA**

**Israel to build fence along border with Jordan: report**

Israel will build a security fence on the border with Jordan, a report said on Sunday, enraging Palestinians ahead of talks with US Secretary of State John Kerry. Israel has long stated that it seeks to retain a long-term military presence along the Jordan Valley, which the Palestinians vigorously oppose. On Sunday morning, Israeli newspaper Maariv said that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu "decided to build a security fence in the Jordan Valley". The paper frames the decision within the context of the "differences of opinion and the impasse the negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians have reached over military control of the Jordan Valley". According to the report, Netanyahu will give the green light for the construction "immediately upon the completion of the fence on the Egyptian border".

**AFP -**  [**http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Middle-East/2013/Nov-03/236675-israel-to-build-fence-along-border-with-jordan-report.ashx#axzz2jZtbAj6R**](http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Middle-East/2013/Nov-03/236675-israel-to-build-fence-along-border-with-jordan-report.ashx#axzz2jZtbAj6R)

**Egypt**

**Egypt court adjourns Morsi trial to January 8**

Egypt's state TV says the judge in the trial of the country's deposed Islamist president and 14 others has adjourned the hearing soon after it started because the defendants' chants were disrupting the proceedings. The trial has been adjourned until January 8. Morsi and the others are charged with inciting murder and could face the death penalty if convicted. The trial raises fears of a resurgence of violence in the country with Morsi supporters planning widespread protests and police announcing a state of alert.

**France 24 -** [**http://www.france24.com/en/20131103-egypt-morsi-trial-tension-muslim-brotherhood**](http://www.france24.com/en/20131103-egypt-morsi-trial-tension-muslim-brotherhood)

**Authorities not probing killing of protesters: HRW**

Egypt’s authorities have yet to announce any move to investigate security force killings of protesters on October 6, 2013. Almost four weeks after police used lethal force to break up protests by Muslim Brotherhood supporters, the authorities have not said they have questioned, or intend to question, security forces about their use of firearms that day. The clashes left 57 people dead throughout Egypt, according to the Health Ministry, with no police deaths reported. “In dealing with protest after protest, Egyptian security forces escalate quickly and without warning to live ammunition, with deadly results,” said Joe Stork, deputy Middle East and North Africa director at Human Rights Watch. “Thirteen hundred people have died since July. What will it take for the authorities to rein in security forces or even set up a fact-finding committee into their use of deadly force?”

**HRW -** [**http://www.hrw.org/news/2013/11/02/egypt-protester-killings-not-being-investigated**](http://www.hrw.org/news/2013/11/02/egypt-protester-killings-not-being-investigated)

**US to continue back Egypt's interim gov't**

US Secretary of State John Kerry, during his first visit to Egypt since the ouster of former president Mohamed Morsi, confirmed on Sunday that the US would continue its cooperation with Egypt's interim government. Kerry described Egypt as a "vital partner" at a joint press conference with Egyptian Foreign Minister Nabil Fahmy, held directly after their meeting. He emphasized that the United States is committed to working with the interim government and supporting Egyptians. Relations between the two countries have been deteriorating since the ouster of Morsi and they further soured on Oct. 9 when the United States suspended its annual military assistance of 1.3 billion US dollars to its Middle East ally. Fahmy had previously said in an interview that there was "unrest" between Egypt and the US after the aid suspension, saying the strain could affect the whole Middle East.

**Xinhua -** [**http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/africa/2013-11/03/c\_132855659.htm**](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/africa/2013-11/03/c_132855659.htm)

**Gunmen kill two Egyptian police ahead of Morsi trial**

Gunmen killed two Egyptian policemen Sunday near Ismailia on the west bank of the Suez Canal, security sources said, hours before ousted president Mohamed Morsi was to go on trial. A third policeman was wounded when the armed men fired automatic weapons from their car toward the officers' checkpoint, the sources said. Medical sources confirmed the toll. Since the army deposed and arrested Morsi, Egypt's first democratically elected president, on July 3, near daily attacks have claimed dozens of lives among police and soldiers across the country. The army-installed interim government has accused pro-Morsi Islamist groups of carrying out the attacks.

**AFP -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/gunmen-kill-two-egyptian-police-ahead-morsi-trial-225114881.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/gunmen-kill-two-egyptian-police-ahead-morsi-trial-225114881.html)

**Iran**

**Protesters swarm former US embassy in Tehran**

Tens of thousands of demonstrators packed the streets Monday outside the former US Embassy in Tehran in the biggest anti-American rally in years, a show of support for hard-line opponents of President Hassan Rouhani's historic outreach to Washington. Such protests occur every year outside the former embassy compound to mark the anniversary of the 1979 takeover following the Islamic Revolution. But the latest demonstration is the largest in years after calls by groups such as the powerful Revolutionary Guard for a major showing, including chants of "death to America" that some of Rouhani's backers have urged halted. The crowds also send a message to Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who cautiously has backed Rouhani's overtures to the US and efforts to end the impasse with the West over Tehran's nuclear program.

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/iran-protesters-swarm-us-embassy-tehran-20773328**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/iran-protesters-swarm-us-embassy-tehran-20773328)

**Iraq**

**11 dead in north Iraq violence**

A series of attacks north of Baghdad - including multiple bombings targeting police- killed 11 people on Monday, as Iraq grapples with its worst bloodshed since 2008. Monday´s violence concentrated on security forces for a second consecutive day, with suicide bombers hitting police sites in multiple cities in north Iraq. In the deadliest attack, multiple bombings targeting a police station in the predominantly Sunni Arab town of Sharqat, in Salaheddin province, left four policemen dead and a dozen more wounded, according to police and medical sources. An initial car bomb outside the station caused no casualties, but as police and emergency responders gathered at the scene of the blast, two suicide bombers detonated their explosives-rigged belts. Another car bomb, this one set off by a suicide bomber, targeted a police academy in Salaheddin´s capital Tikrit, just a day after the centre launched a recruitment drive. One person was killed, and nine others were wounded by the explosion, officials said.

**AFP -** [**http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5jfpqIhF8idTjdzvOthNBBXWbZALA?docId=7fefad8e-2c75-439f-aea6-1034315fe786**](http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5jfpqIhF8idTjdzvOthNBBXWbZALA?docId=7fefad8e-2c75-439f-aea6-1034315fe786)

**Iraq VP sets parliamentary polls for April 30**

Iraq's vice president announced Monday that parliamentary polls will be held on April 30, 2014, confirming an earlier parliament decision, though lawmakers have yet to approve rules governing the election. The lack of agreement on the election law, which sets the voting system and rules for the polls, means the election could be delayed past April, but MPs insisted the law would pass later on Monday. While a date for the election was set out in a separate piece of legislation, the election law has been at the center of a political wrangle for weeks, with disputes ranging from how many seats would be up for grabs, to the voting system to be used.

**AFP -** [**http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/104343-iraq-vp-sets-parliamentary-polls-for-april-30**](http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/104343-iraq-vp-sets-parliamentary-polls-for-april-30)

**Jordan**

**King says Syria refugee influx depleting Jordan**

King Abdullah II said Sunday the influx of hundreds of thousands of Syrian refugees is depleting Jordan's scarce natural resources, and called for international assistance to deal with the problem.

"Jordan currently hosts around 600,000 Syrian refugees - an issue that depletes our already limited resources and puts enormous pressure on our infrastructure," the king said in a speech to parliament.

"If the international community does not move quickly to help us shoulder the burdens of the Syrian crisis... Jordan is able to take measures to protect the interests of our people and country," he said without elaborating. The monarch said that since the start of the Syria conflict, Jordan had stuck to a policy of supporting a political solution that preserves the war-hit country's unity and territorial integrity, as well security in the region.

**AFP -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/king-says-syria-refugee-influx-depleting-jordan-082343602.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/king-says-syria-refugee-influx-depleting-jordan-082343602.html)

**Libya**

**East Libya movement launches government, challenges Tripoli**

Leaders of an autonomy movement in Libya's oil-rich east unilaterally declared a regional government on Sunday, in a challenge to the weak central government as new violence erupted in the restive region. The announcement is a symbolic blow to efforts by the Tripoli government to reopen eastern oil ports and fields blocked since summer by militias and tribes demanding a greater share of power and oil wealth. It has no practical implications but is sure to worsen ties between the east and Tripoli which has rejected the self-rule notion. Officials were not immediately available for comment. Lawlessness has blighted large areas of the OPEC producer since the 2011 war that toppled Muammar Gaddafi. The government has been unable to rein in militia groups, armed tribes and radical Islamists.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20131103183136-0ig8a/**](http://www.trust.org/item/20131103183136-0ig8a/)

**Car bomb in Libya kills intelligence officer, son**

Security officials in Libya say a car bomb has killed an intelligence officer and his two-year son in the eastern city of Benghazi. Officials say Sueliman el-Fasy and his son were killed Sunday night in the Quraish neighborhood in a blast targeting his family. They say his pregnant wife suffered burns and his eight-month son was hospitalized. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to brief journalists.

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/car-bomb-libya-kills-intelligence-officer-son-20773612**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/car-bomb-libya-kills-intelligence-officer-son-20773612)

**Saudi Arabia**

**Foreign workers stay home to escape Saudi visa crackdown**

The streets of the Saudi capital Riyadh were unusually quiet on Monday as many expatriates stayed at home to avoid the start of a government crackdown on illegal foreign workers. Building sites were deserted, Riyadh's stuttering rush-hour traffic flowed smoothly and many shops and market stalls were closed in normally busy neighborhoods that are home to large numbers of Saudi Arabia's lower-income foreign community. The government of the world's top oil exporter has promised raids on businesses, markets and residential areas to catch expatriates whose visas are invalid because they are not working for the company that 'sponsored' their entry into the kingdom.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/11/04/us-saudi-foreignworkers-idUSBRE9A30DD20131104**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/11/04/us-saudi-foreignworkers-idUSBRE9A30DD20131104)

**State of Palestine**

**Senior UN relief official urges immediate action to resolve Gaza power crisis**

A senior UN humanitarian official has voiced his concern about the shutdown of Gaza’s main power plant earlier today due to a critical fuel shortage, and warned of its impact on the already vulnerable 1.7 million residents living in the Strip. “In recent years, Gaza has been running on less than half of the electricity that it needs. The shutdown of the power plant today and related fuel shortages will impact all essential services, including hospitals, clinics, sewage and water pumping stations,” said Humanitarian Coordinator James W. Rawley. “It will also mean that Gaza’s 1.7 million people will experience power outages of up to 16 hours per day,” he warned in a news release. Electricity is supplied through Israeli and Egyptian feeder lines but the Gaza Power Plant provides approximately 30 per cent of Gaza’s total energy supply.

**UN News Centre -** [**http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=46397&Cr=gaza&Cr1**](http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=46397&Cr=gaza&Cr1)**=**

**Sudan**

**Aid worker killed in Sudan’s Darfur: UN**

Carjackers killed a Sudanese aid worker in the country’s Darfur region, the UN said, bringing to four the number of humanitarian staff killed this year in the region’s worsening unrest. The attack happened on October 23 about 15 km southwest of Nyala, Sudan’s second largest city, OCHA said in its latest weekly bulletin, issued late on Thursday. It said the head of the Sudanese Al-Sugia Charity Organisation, a non-governmental group, was killed by unidentified gunmen. “Another staff member of Al-Sugia on board the NGO vehicle and a police officer were injured when the gunmen ambushed and hijacked the vehicle,” OCHA said.

**AFP -** [**http://www.africareview.com/News/Aid-worker-killed-in-Sudan-s-Darfur-UN/-/979180/2056056/-/bw37moz/-/index.html**](http://www.africareview.com/News/Aid-worker-killed-in-Sudan-s-Darfur-UN/-/979180/2056056/-/bw37moz/-/index.html)

**Syria**

**War costs industry $2.2 billion: minister**

The Syrian industrial sector has lost $2.2 billion since the war began 31 months ago, Industry Minister Kamaleddine Tohme said in statements published Sunday. "The losses in the industrial sector from the start of the Syrian crisis till October total 336 billion Syrian pounds ($2.2 billion)," the pro-regime newspaper Al-Watan quoted Tohme as saying. The private industrial sector has lost $1.5 billion, while public industry has lost $700 million, he said. But he insisted that the figures did not reflect losses incurred in parts of the country held by rebel groups fighting to topple the regime.

**AFP -** [**http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5gfMkIUUF8hVtTPITSqgA1Pa5kL2Q?docId=7cdea4ba-4cb2-4e5d-8f0a-484912d79fce**](http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5gfMkIUUF8hVtTPITSqgA1Pa5kL2Q?docId=7cdea4ba-4cb2-4e5d-8f0a-484912d79fce)

**Car bomb kills six in Homs: SANA**

A car bomb killed six people, three of them children, and wounded 37 others in the central Syrian province of Homs on Monday, state-run SANA news agency reported. It said "terrorists" - the official tag for rebels fighting to topple the regime - blew up the explosives-rigged vehicle at the entrance to the town of Thabitiyeh. The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, which relies on reports from medics and activists on the ground, gave a toll of five killed and 40 wounded in the attack. Thabitiyeh is located east of Homs, which has seen some of the worst battles of the 31-month war between rebels and troops loyal to President Bashar al-Assad. Observatory chief Rami Abdel Rahman said that Thabitiyeh residents are mainly Shiite Muslims, unlike the mostly Sunni Muslims battling to topple Assad. SANA said the blast caused massive damage to homes in the town.

**VoA/DPA -** [**http://voiceofrussia.com/news/2013\_11\_04/Car-bomb-kills-six-in-Homs-state-agency-2753/**](http://voiceofrussia.com/news/2013_11_04/Car-bomb-kills-six-in-Homs-state-agency-2753/)

**Envoy pushes Syria peace talks as UN warns of child hunger – UNICEF mention**

The UN-Arab League envoy to Syria has said no peace conference will be possible without the Syrian opposition, as the UN warned of rising malnutrition among children trapped in battle zones. Hoping to build on the momentum of last month's US-Russia accord to destroy Syria's chemical arsenal by mid-2014, envoy Lakhdar Brahimi has been criss-crossing the region to rally support for the so-called Geneva II talks. Syria's opposition has refused to attend unless President Bashar al-Assad's resignation is on the table -- a demand rejected by Damascus. Rebel groups have warned that participants would be considered traitors. The 31-month-old conflict has also triggered a massive humanitarian crisis. On Friday, the UN's food aid agency voiced fears about severe food shortages and children going hungry in besieged areas. "There is an upward trend in the number of children being treated with moderate and severe acute malnutrition. Most of these cases are being reported from two referral hospitals in Damascus," added **UNICEF** spokeswoman Marixie Mercado.

**AFP -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/syrias-chemical-arms-production-equipment-destroyed-085121737.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/syrias-chemical-arms-production-equipment-destroyed-085121737.html)

**Tunisia**

**Tunisia extends state of emergency for 8 months**

Tunisia, which is grappling with a political crisis and violence attributed to armed groups, has said it is extending by eight months a state of emergency in place since the 2011 uprising. The presidency made the announcement on Sunday and said the state of emergency would be extended until the end of June 2014. Tunisia's authorities have renewed the state of emergency by periods ranging from three months to a year since the 2011 uprising that toppled veteran strongman Zine El Abidine Ben Ali. Late on Saturday, Tunisia's ruling party, Ennahda, and the opposition failed to reach an agreement on appointing a new prime minister, with both sides pledging to continue negotiations.

**Al Jazeera -** [**http://www.aljazeera.com/news/africa/2013/11/tunisia-extends-state-emergency-2013113103034590138.html**](http://www.aljazeera.com/news/africa/2013/11/tunisia-extends-state-emergency-2013113103034590138.html)

**Yemen**

**Overnight shelling takes death toll in north Yemen to 100, say Salafis**

Overnight shelling has taken the death toll from fighting between rival Shi'ite and Sunni Muslim groups in a northern town in Yemen to at least 100 people, a spokesman for one of the groups said on Monday. Sectarian fighting in the town of Damaj has cast a shadow over national reconciliation efforts in Yemen, a neighbor of oil exporter Saudi Arabia and home to one of al Qaeda's most active wings where Washington is keen to foster stability. Clashes broke out on Wednesday when Houthi fighters, who control much of Saada province on the border with Saudi Arabia, accused Salafi rivals in Damaj of taking in thousands of foreign fighters to prepare to attack them.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/11/04/us-yemen-violence-idUSBRE9A30D520131104**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/11/04/us-yemen-violence-idUSBRE9A30D520131104)

**Al-Qaida militants bomb oil pipeline in southeastern Yemen**

Suspected al-Qaida militants blew up an oil pipeline in Yemen's southeastern province of Shabwa on Monday, causing oil leak and sending black smoke billowing into the sky, a government official told Xinhua. The powerful bomb explosion ripped through Shabwa's oil pipeline that transports some 10,000 barrels per day to Yemen's Belhaf export terminal in the Gulf of Aden, the local government source said on condition of anonymity. "Armed terrorists of the al-Qaida group placed a roadside bomb under the pipeline in al-Saed region in Shabwa's eastern outskirts. The huge explosion caused a leak in the pipeline," the government source said. The Yemeni official accused militants of the Yemen-based al- Qaida offshoot of being behind the pipeline bombing.

**Xinhua -** [**http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2013-11/04/c\_132857943.htm**](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2013-11/04/c_132857943.htm)

ROSA

**Afghanistan**

**Afghan conflicts leave 17 Taliban dead, 10 surrendered, 3 gov't servicemen injured in 2 days**

Seventeen Taliban militants have been killed, 10 others have surrendered in two days of counter- insurgency operations, and three employees of the government- backed election commission sustained injuries over the past two days in conflict-ridden Afghanistan, officials said Monday. "Personnel of national police in conjunction with the national army and the NATO-led troops have killed 17 Taliban rebels during series of operations in Kandahar, Paktika, Paktiya, Farah and Nimroz provinces over the past 24 hours," the Interior Ministry said in a statement released here on Monday. In a related development, according to government sources, 10 Taliban fighters gave up fighting and resumed normal life in Sarobi district 60 km east of the capital city Kabul over the period.

**Xinhua -** [**http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2013-11/04/c\_132858396.htm**](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2013-11/04/c_132858396.htm)

**Bangladesh**

**1 dead as violence marks strike in Bangladesh**

Protesters exploded homemade bombs, torched cars and called on the Bangladeshi government to quit Monday in the latest turn in a political crisis that has polarized the country ahead of January elections. At least one person was reported killed. Security was heightened across the capital, Dhaka, with extra police and paramilitary guards patrolling the streets. The opposition began a three-day strike to force the government to step down. A similar strike last week turned violent, with at least 16 people killed in clashes as opposition members tried to enforce the strike.

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/blasts-arson-mark-start-strike-bangladesh-20773016**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/blasts-arson-mark-start-strike-bangladesh-20773016)

**India**

**Suspected militants kill seven villagers in India attack**

Suspected militants, heavily armed and dressed in army fatigues, opened fire on villagers in restive northeast India, killing at least seven and wounding nine others, police officers said on Monday. The rebels attacked the villagers late on Sunday in Golapara district of Assam state, while they were playing cards during festivities to celebrate the Hindu holiday of Diwali, two senior officers said. The militants, belonging to the outlawed separatist group the Garo National Liberation Army (GNLA), fired on the villagers, killing seven, state Inspector General S.N. Singh said.

**AFP -** [**http://www.brecorder.com/top-news/109-world-top-news/142947-suspected-militants-kill-seven-villagers-in-india-attack.html**](http://www.brecorder.com/top-news/109-world-top-news/142947-suspected-militants-kill-seven-villagers-in-india-attack.html)

**Pakistan**

**Grenade attack in northwest Pakistan kills four Shiites**

Suspected militants hurled grenades at a tribal meeting in northwest Pakistan Sunday, killing at least four Shiite Muslims and wounding two others in an apparent sectarian attack, officials said. The attack came as a group of Shiites were holding a meeting to settle a land ownership dispute in a village in Orakzai tribal district. Orakzai is one of Pakistan's seven lawless tribal districts on the Afghan border considered to be the hub of Taliban and al-Qaida linked militants. "Three attackers came in a jeep and hurled four grenades on the participants of the meeting," senior administration official Mehmood Aslam told Agence France Presse. "Four people were killed and two others were injured. The guards of the participants fired back and killed one of the attackers," he said.

**AFP -** [**http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/104269-grenade-attack-in-northwest-pakistan-kills-four-shiites**](http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/104269-grenade-attack-in-northwest-pakistan-kills-four-shiites)

**Ban on polio vaccination: Jirga in contact with Taliban**

The Fata Secretariat is understood to be in contact with the Taliban through a tribal jirga for early removal of the ban on polio vaccination in North Waziristan Agency. The development comes out as another child in the restive agency tests positive for polio taking the number of this year’s cases of the crippling disease to 16, the highest by any agency or district in the country. The National Institute of Health, Islamabad on Thursday diagnosed 15-month-old Essa Khan of Mussaki village in Razmak tehsil of North Waziristan Agency with polio. The child didn’t get any dose of oral polio vaccine due to the Taliban’s ban on polio campaigns, which has been in place since June 2012. Until now this year, 39 of the 54 nationwide polio cases have been reported in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas, a major obstacle to the global polio eradication efforts as declared by the World Health Organisation.

**DAWN -** [**http://dawn.com/news/1053377/ban-on-polio-vaccination-jirga-in-contact-with-taliban**](http://dawn.com/news/1053377/ban-on-polio-vaccination-jirga-in-contact-with-taliban)

**Pakistani Taliban chief killed in drone strike**

The head of the Pakistani Taliban was killed by a US drone strike on Friday, security and Taliban sources said, in a blow to the fragmented movement fighting against the nuclear-armed South Asian nation. Hakimullah Mehsud was one of the most wanted and feared men in Pakistan with a $5 million US bounty on his head, leading an insurgency from a mountain hideout in North Waziristan, the Taliban's stronghold on the Afghan frontier. "We confirm with great sorrow that our esteemed leader was martyred in a drone attack," a senior Taliban commander said.

**Reuters -** [**http://uk.reuters.com/article/2013/11/01/uk-pakistan-drone-strike-idUKBRE9A00OI20131101**](http://uk.reuters.com/article/2013/11/01/uk-pakistan-drone-strike-idUKBRE9A00OI20131101)

**Sri Lanka**

**Long-term IDPs - what next?**

Years after fighting ended in Sri Lanka - up to more than 20 years for some - tens of thousands of people are still unable to return to their homes, a situation researchers say is unlikely to change soon.

A recent report by the Colombo-based advocacy body Centre for Policy Alternatives in 2013 estimated that at least 94,400 “protracted” internally displaced persons (IDPs) who come mostly from minority Tamil and Muslim communities displaced by conflict, have not been able to return in a “meaningful” and “sustainable” way to their home villages. Report author Mirak Raheem said the number may be higher due to the complex nature of protracted displacement where family members born in displacement have swelled the numbers of original IDPs. The northwestern district of Puttalam is home to some 75,000 Muslims forced out of the Northern Province in 1990 by ethnic Tamil rebels who feared their rising political power.

**IRIN -** [**http://www.irinnews.org/report/99041/sri-lanka-s-long-term-idps-what-next**](http://www.irinnews.org/report/99041/sri-lanka-s-long-term-idps-what-next)

WCAR

**Across WCAR**

**West African navies must cooperate, US says after kidnappings**

Boosting cooperation between west African navies is crucial to curbing pirate attacks, the United States Africa Command (AFRICOM) said Friday, a week after two American sailors were kidnapped off Nigeria. West Africa's Gulf of Guinea has been described as an emerging piracy hub where violent sea raids have spiked in recent years, according to some estimates. Following the October 23 abduction of two US citizens from an oil servicing vessel off southern Nigeria, the White House said it was disturbed by rising criminality in the Gulf of Guinea, a key commercial transport route, especially for west African oil heading to world refineries.

**AFP -** [**http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/afp/131101/w-african-navies-must-cooperate-us-says-after-kidnappings**](http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/afp/131101/w-african-navies-must-cooperate-us-says-after-kidnappings)

**What does the future hold for pastoralists in the Sahel?**

Harsher droughts and rising numbers of conflicts with farmers are threatening the future of pastoralism in the Sahel, but experts say that integrating crop and livestock systems can help sustain the livelihoods of herders and farmers. Droughts have wrought severe consequences in recent years, including in 2011-2012, when a major drought left some 18 million people in the region at risk of hunger. Practices such as rotational grazing, land and tree regeneration, intercropping, and agroforestry can help ensure herders continue to feed their animals while avoiding conflict with farmers over shrinking productive lands, experts say.

**IRIN -** [**http://www.irinnews.org/report/99044/what-does-the-future-hold-for-pastoralists-in-the-sahel**](http://www.irinnews.org/report/99044/what-does-the-future-hold-for-pastoralists-in-the-sahel)

**UN, World Bank to press for development in Sahel region**

UN SG Ban Ki-moon and World Bank President Jim Yong Kim announced today they are teaming up for a trip to the Sahel next week to address pressing issues in the vast African region such as pervasive poverty, food insecurity and conflict. “The Sahel is one of the most impoverished and fragile places on the planet,” said Mr. Ban in a joint press conference in New York. “We are going together to listen and act. We are convinced the cycle of crises in the Sahel can be broken. The region can move from fragility to sustainability.” Earlier this year, Mr. Ban and Mr. Kim travelled together to Africa’s long troubled Great Lakes region in support of a new peace framework agreed by leaders there. It was the first joint visit by a UN Secretary-General and a President of the World Bank. The new trip seeks to build on joint efforts, foster international support, and spotlight the challenges currently facing the Sahel.

**UN News Centre -** [**http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=46395&Cr=sahel&Cr1**](http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=46395&Cr=sahel&Cr1)**=**

**CAR**

**UN officials see risk of genocide**

Central African Republic is at risk of spiraling into genocide as armed groups incite Christians and Muslims against each other in the virtually lawless country, senior UN officials told the Security Council on Friday. The landlocked, mineral-rich nation of 4.6 million people has slipped into chaos since northern Seleka rebels seized the capital, Bangui, and ousted President Francois Bozize in March. Rights groups say both sides may have committed war crimes. "More and more you have inter-sectarian violence because the Seleka targeted the churches and the Christians, so now the Christians have created self-defense militias and they are retaliating against the Muslims," said French UN Ambassador Gerard Araud after a briefing by UN rights and aid officials.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/11/01/us-centralafrica-un-idUSBRE9A00Y120131101**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/11/01/us-centralafrica-un-idUSBRE9A00Y120131101)

**WFP calls for more funding to ramp up food aid**

Concerned by the rising food insecurity in the Central African Republic, the WFP today said that it plans to boost its humanitarian efforts, while also calling for more financial support. “Humanitarian needs have risen in recent months as renewed fighting has exacerbated the already precarious security situation,” WFP spokesperson, Elisabeth Byrs, told journalists in Geneva today, adding that in order to guarantee the continued food assistance in the country, the agency requires an additional $20 million from now until April 2014. The ongoing conflict has disrupted the livelihoods of already vulnerable families since March, leading to some 1.1 million people being food insecure. According to the WFP-backed Emergency Food Security Assessment (EFSA), which was released in September and which warned of poor harvests now and in coming months, the food security situation will aggravate if the violence continues. Farmers will be forced to leave their farms, depriving them of access to conduct agricultural activities. Therefore, as the EFSA alerted, it will cause poor harvest.

**UN News Centre -** [**http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=46398&Cr=central+african+republic&Cr1**](http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=46398&Cr=central+african+republic&Cr1)**=**

**UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador Mia Farrow to visit**

UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador Mia Farrow will travel to Central African Republic next week to help highlight the plight of children as new fighting is making an already dire humanitarian situation even more precarious. This will be Ms. Farrow’s third visit to the conflict-torn country, where renewed fighting since August has forced thousands of people to flee, with nearly 400,000 people now displaced. Most of them are women and children with many hiding in remote areas and in desperate need of clean water, food and health facilities. During the one-week visit, Ms. Farrow is scheduled to travel to the troubled region of Bossangoa north of the capital city of Bangui to meet with families who have recently sought refuge from fresh fighting in the area. She will also visit a school that has recently opened in Bangui, as well as health points and a hospital in the capital.

**UNICEF -** [**http://www.unicef.org/media/media\_70793.html**](http://www.unicef.org/media/media_70793.html)

**DR Congo**

**DR Congo pounds rebels despite truce call**

DRC’s army on Monday pounded the remaining hilltop positions of M23 rebels in the country's troubled east despite a truce call by the beleaguered insurgents. Troops used heavy arms to attack the estimated 200 diehard fighters holed up in the hills after a military offensive forced them from their last stronghold last week. The fresh assault came a day after the leader of the beleaguered rebels, M23 president Bertrand Bisimwa, called for a ceasefire. "We order all the forces of the Congolese revolutionary army to immediately end hostilities with the armed forces of the DRC (FARDC)," Bisimwa said in a statement on Sunday. He said his aim was to "allow the continuation of the political process" with Kinshasa in a bid to end the insurgency rocking the long-troubled region since April 2012.

**AFP -** [**http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5hG\_DWmpxRL\_7dMm4MACnj7YhQmNA?docId=69f69fc9-3fd4-4688-b96c-0420932b892c**](http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5hG_DWmpxRL_7dMm4MACnj7YhQmNA?docId=69f69fc9-3fd4-4688-b96c-0420932b892c)

**Guinea**

**Elections delayed until 2014**

Guinea-Bissau will postpone an election planned for November until early next year due to a lack of funds, officials said on Friday. The election is supposed to return the West African country to democracy after a military coup last year and Western and regional powers and the UN had all urged it to hold the vote before year end. "There is now sufficient funding to hold general elections," interim President Manuel Sherifo Nhamadjo said. He had previously indicated that the vote would take place on November 24. The UN special representative to the country, Jose Ramos-Horta, said that $20 million had been raised for the election, adding that he now expected it to happen in February or March.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/11/01/us-bissau-election-idUSBRE9A00U120131101**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/11/01/us-bissau-election-idUSBRE9A00U120131101)

**Mali**

**Violent protest mars opening of conference on north**

More than one thousand Malians burned tyres and set fire to the mayor's residence in the northern city of Gao to protest against the make-up of a delegation representing them at a nationwide conference. The demonstration broke out as representatives gathered at the opening ceremony of the Conference on Northern Mali in Bamako for three days of talks on promoting peace and equality among the marginalised populations of the country's vast desert north. It was not immediately clear why the protesters were objecting over the delegation but the Malian government has agreed to allow Gao to send new representatives.

**AFP -** [**http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/afp/131101/violent-protest-mars-opening-conference-northern-mali**](http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/afp/131101/violent-protest-mars-opening-conference-northern-mali)

**North schools off to a hard start - UNICEF mention**

The ravages of Mali’s conflict, which paralysed education for almost two years, have disrupted the start of a new school year in the country’s north, where damaged schools, staff shortages and insecurity have set back learning. Schools reopened across Mali in October. The government and **UNICEF** launched a back-to-school campaign to help 500,000 children and 9,000 teachers restart schooling. Bamako also set up a scheme to pay civil servants to return to the country’s north. Northern Mali was overrun by Islamist militants and separatist rebels after the government was overthrown in Bamako in March 2012. The Islamists, who imposed a harsh form of Islamic law, were dislodged by French forces in January. However, security is yet to fully return to the region.

**IRIN -** [**http://www.irinnews.org/report/99046/north-mali-schools-off-to-a-hard-start**](http://www.irinnews.org/report/99046/north-mali-schools-off-to-a-hard-start)

**'Terrorists' shot dead two French journalists in Mali**

Two French radio journalists were shot dead by "terrorist groups" in northeastern Mali, Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius said Sunday as their bodies were flown to the capital Bamako.

Radio France Internationale (RFI) journalist Ghislaine Dupont and sound technician Claude Verlon to Bamako were kidnapped and killed in the town of Kidal on Saturday. Dupont, 57, and Verlon, 55, "were killed in cold blood," Fabius said in Paris earlier Sunday after crisis talks led by President Francois Hollande. "One took two bullets and the other three." "The killers are those we are fighting, the terrorist groups who are opposed to democracy and elections," Fabius added, saying that the journalists had been executed in an "odious manner." He said security in "the entire zone and neighbouring areas, in particular with concern to French citizens, will be intensified." A government source said French troops based in northern Mali would be made "more visible".

**AFP -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/two-french-journalists-kidnapped-northern-mali-164101901.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/two-french-journalists-kidnapped-northern-mali-164101901.html)

**Group arrested in journalist deaths: Mali official**

A Malian intelligence official says about a half-dozen people have been detained by French forces east of the north Mali city of Kidal in connection with the kidnapping and killing of two French journalists. The official, who could not be named because he was not authorized to speak to reporters, said the journalists' bodies were found next to the attackers' abandoned car. He said French troops followed the attackers' tracks in the sand and on Monday apprehended a group of men. Witnesses reported that Radio France Internationale journalists Ghislaine Dupont and Claude Verlon were grabbed by four men on Saturday after interviewing a Tuareg rebel leader. The intelligence official said: "We believe that of the people they now have in custody, they have at least one of the four killers."

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/french-minister-journalists-shot-death-mali-20767933**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/french-minister-journalists-shot-death-mali-20767933)

**Niger**

**Authorities arrest 150 migrants in crackdown after Sahara deaths**

Niger arrested about 150 people trying to cross its border into Algeria on Friday in a crackdown on networks ferrying migrants across the Sahara following the death of 92 people in a failed desert crossing last month. The migrants, including 18 Nigerians, were arrested while travelling in a convoy of five vehicles, rescue worker Almoustapha Alhacena and a security official, who asked not to be identified, said on Saturday. "The migrants were mostly men with a few children. They were arrested in the desert and are being held in Arlit, the town from where they illegally left for Algeria," the security official said. The government announced after a cabinet meeting on Friday that it will immediately shut down all camps used by migrants in the north.

**Reuters -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/niger-arrests-150-migrants-crackdown-sahara-deaths-200251017.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/niger-arrests-150-migrants-crackdown-sahara-deaths-200251017.html)

**Nigeria**

**Gunmen kill groom, 30 in wedding convoy**

Suspected Islamic militants attacked a wedding convoy in northeast Nigeria over the weekend, the latest in a storm of violence in the region as government troops battle religious extremists bent on turning Africa's most populous nation into an Islamic state. Authorities on Sunday gave conflicting accounts of the death toll, however - ranging from five to as many as 30, including the groom. The attack took place Saturday on the highway between Gama and Gwoza towns in Borno state, military spokesman Lt. Col. Muhammed Dole said. That road runs alongside forests that are a known hideout of Islamic extremists from the Boko Haram network. Dole put the death toll at five. However, Adamawa state spokesman Ahmad Sajoh said more than 30 people, including the groom, were killed. He did not explain where his information came from, but noted that the groom and his guests were from Adamawa, which neighbors Borno state, and had been driving home.

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/nigeria-gunmen-kill-groom-30-wedding-convoy-20768387**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/nigeria-gunmen-kill-groom-30-wedding-convoy-20768387)

**Fire guts 22-storey Nigeria commercial building in Lagos**

A huge fire engulfed a commercial building in Nigeria's economic hub Lagos on Monday, causing serious damage to the 22-storey high-rise tower on the Lagos Island broad-martins street. A Xinhua reporter at the scene said tenants of the building and traders wept as flames engulfed the Great Nigeria House, which served as their offices and warehouses. There was nobody in the building because the fire started before work hours, the reporter added. Many of the traders were seen scrambling to salvage their goods from the burning building, as the blaze brought to a standstill commercial activities in the ever busy Balogun area of Lagos Island. The Great Nigeria House, acclaimed as the fifth tallest building in Nigeria, accommodates Mainstreet Bank and served as warehouses to some traders.

**Xinhua -** [**http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/africa/2013-11/04/c\_132858346.htm**](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/africa/2013-11/04/c_132858346.htm)

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